

Dear Honorable Legislators of the Transportation Committee,

My name is David Drazul and I live in Bethel, a small town adjacent to Danbury, a border city. Please reject House Bill 6818. Should this bill become law, it will authorize the construction of toll booths along Connecticut's borders.

While I lament the condition of my local roads, I don't see how any of the revenue collected from border tolls will be used to alleviate the problems encountered. Highways and state roads receive the majority of transportation funds with towns forced to fend for their own roads. However, as drivers look to bypass the toll booths, they will endeavor to discover back doors into the state by means of smaller roads ill equipped to handle the increased flow of traffic. Traffic on Route 7, the western artery that connects New Milford and Danbury to the job centers of Stamford and Norwalk, will become as congested as it was before it was widened.

I'm also skeptical as to how these funds will be used. In the past, the state has misappropriated revenue. The money from the tobacco settlement should've gone into prevention ads or treatment for those foolish enough to become addicted to smoking. Instead, the state used it to settle its debts. There have been dramatic increases in the cost of licenses to fish in the state's rivers and along its coast. However, the increased revenue went into the state's general fund rather than into environmental protection of our waterways or remediation of polluted areas. I foresee a similar fate for the revenue collected by border tolls.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

David Drazul  
Bethel, CT